

THE BECCON BEACON

FRIDAY MORNING EDITION

Welcome to BECCON. This is the first edition of The BECCON Beacon, your friendly convention newsletter, designed to amuse, bemuse and entertain you every evening of the con.

Or not, depending on whether we can find anyone out there to help us with the next one. Any volunteers? If so, please come to the Intro to Repro Workshop at 2pm on Friday, and meet the equipment on which we produced this, and plan to produce others.

Meanwhile, down to business.

PROGRAMME CHANGES

No convention ever manages to put on the programme precisely as it was printed. The reasons for this are various, and include human error, accident, luck both bad and good, optimism, pessimism and opportunism. BECCON, needless to say, possesses no divine immunity from any of the above, and we had the temerity to send the programme to the printer three weeks before the convention, thus leaving ample opportunity for them all to operate.

So, please read on to discover the additions, deletions, corrections and alterations to the programme as printed in 'Disparate Fun'.

FRIDAY

2.30pm - Durham Room - WORKSHOP: BIBLIOBASES - Please note that this will take place in the Durham Room (upstairs in the County Suite), not as printed.

8pm - King's Hall - THE VIEW FROM ANOTHER SHORE - Unfortunately, Krsto Mazuranic is unable to be present this weekend, but John Brunner has kindly stepped into the breach with a talk. What will the talk be about? Come and find out.

8pm - Games Room - ARE YOU PARANOID? - Introduction to the role playing game Paranoia, and introductory game. This will continue until the game is played out, which may be midnight.

10pm - York Room - THE NEW ERA PARTY - New Era Publications are kindly providing free drinks for an hour or so.

11pm - Arden Room - KEITH ROBERTS' DESERT ISLAND POEMS - This will take place in the Arden Room (not the Queen's Hall as advertised).

NEWS OF CHANGES TO THE PROGRAMME FOR THE REST OF THE CONVENTION WILL APPEAR IN FUTURE EDITIONS OF THE BECCON BEACON.

CINEMA

A note on the Cinema timetable. The rule is that the film will start on or after the hour it is shown as starting, and will end before or at the hour

it is shown ending as far as possible. When time permits, short films will be shown before the film listed in the slot.

Unlike most conventions, BECCON has 35mm film projection facilities, and we have taken advantage of these to acquire some films that are not available in 16mm, and to hire 35mm prints when this was possible. For this and other reasons, there are a few changes from the Cinema Programme as printed.

FRIDAY - 10am - JABBERWOCKY - Monty Python mixes black comedy with fairy tale in a medieval world.

FRIDAY - 12 noon - REPO MAN - 92 minutes - 1985 - This replaces First Spaceship On Venus. A stylish satire on America, flying saucers and everything.

SATURDAY - 2pm - MR VAMPIRE - 90 minutes (approximately) - This replaces 'The Silent Flute'. It's a kung fu vampire movie directed by Sam Ho, and is reputed to be excellent. Note that this is the only showing, and that you are unlikely ever to get another chance to see it.

SATURDAY - 11pm - LEGEND OF HELL HOUSE - Just a note to say that the fireworks are scheduled for midnight, but the film will not be interrupted unless the entire audience vanishes from the cinema. Of course, if they do then the film programme for Saturday night will slip.

SATURDAY NIGHT (SUNDAY MORNING) - 4am - REPO MAN - Replaces 'The Master of the World'.

Finally, note that the Cinema will close at midnight on Monday. We may, if there is the demand, show 16mm films on request on Monday evening. However, 'Repo Man', 'Mr Vampire', 'Zu: Warriors From the Magic Mountain' and 'Animal Farm' are 35mm and will only be shown as programmed.

LATEST NEWS

About 130 people are in the hotel tonight. First arrival was Larry van der Putte, who came into Birmingham Airport at about 9.30 am. There have also been 7 walkins - not bad when the con doesn't start til tomorrow morning.

Important news is that breakfast tomorrow (Friday) will be served in the Garden Room. On Saturday the hotel is planning to serve breakfast in the Pavilion opposite the Garden Room, not in the King's Bar as advertised.

Christmas Dinner tickets are going fast.

BECCON PRESS UPDATE -

Radio Mercia, covering the Coventry area, will be broadcasting a five minute item on the con sometime in a programme (Friday) starting at 8.00am. This will be repeated 12 hours later in the evening. (Jonathan C).

This newsletter brought to you by Caroline Mullan (news and typing), Bernie Peek, Chris Suslowicz and John Stewart (equipment and duplicating) and Barbara Edwards (encouragement). Have a good convention.

The BECCON BEACON

Fresh with a designer logo, here is the second edition of the Beccon Beacon.

PROGRAM CHANGES (for Saturday)

10 a.m. - Registration desk - BECCON QUIZ - This is the deadline for your answers to the Beccon quiz to be handed in if you want a chance at that \$20 book token.

11 a.m. - King's Hall - Item cancelled.

2 p.m. - Fan Room - WRITING FOR FANZINES - We owe an apology to Maureen Porter for taking her name in vain so often in the program. This panel is actually Vince Clarke and friends.

2 p.m. Cinema - MR VAMPIRE - An Oriental spoof version of the Vampire genre with excellent special effects. Watch for the Vampires hopping up and down. Inventiveness that leaves Hollywood standing. A must for Pieces Of Eight (this review by Geo Bondar). This film will be shown instead of The Silent Flute.

3 p.m. Kings Hall - THE EASTERCON CHARTER AND FANNISH AWARDS - this discussion will include some consideration of the Doc Weir and Ken MacIntyre awards, both partially the responsibility of Eastercon Committees. If there is sufficient interest, the topic will be raised again in the Fan Room at 6:00 p.m. or after the TAFF auction.

3 p.m. Fan Room - SIGNING SESSION - Gene Wolfe and Kim Stanley Robinson.

6 p.m. Registration Desk - DEADLINE - for the Ken MacIntyre, Doc Weir and BSFA award nominations. These have to be handed in before 6:00 p.m. on Saturday. The Awards will be presented on Sunday evening.

6 p.m. Games Room - ROLE PLAYING GAMES WORKSHOP - John Dallman and Gary Statman will continue their discussion on the state of role playing games today.

9 p.m. Durham Room - DRABBLE WORKSHOP - A Drabble is a story precisely one hundred words in length (this is not a Drabble). Rob Meades, David Wake and the Birmingham University Drabble Project need 35 more in order to publish, so come and try your hand.

During the judging of the Fancy Dress - Queens Hall - SILENT MOVIE - the 42nd Squadron entertain us (the Mummers' Play is Sunday night), but asked us to warn people that this involves strobe lighting.

11 p.m. Kings Hall - I'M SORRY I HAVEN'T A CLUE - no longer in the Queens Hall, to save it from being squeezed out of existence between the Fancy Dress and the Fireworks.

11 p.m. Cinema - LEGEND OF HELL HOUSE - this film will continue during the Fireworks if there is an audience in the Cinema. Otherwise, the films time-tabled for early Sunday morning will run late.

Midnight - FIREWORKS - Fireworks are noise (Really? - Ed.), and these will be let off over the Lake to the rear of the Hotel. If your room over looks the pavillion and the Lake (as opposed to the car park), children or pets may be disturbed. You have been warned. Also the Fireworks happen on time or not at all, because of air traffic control regulations. The Convention has exclusive rights to 10,000 feet of air space above the Hotel - for half an hour only.

News of future changes will appear in further editions of the BECCON BEACON.

CON NEWS

Conspiracy '87 - for THIS WEEKEND ONLY pre-April membership rates will apply, i.e. £30 attending membership. Don't miss this INCREDIBLE offer (OK Ian?). Also, there will be a Tea Party starting at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday in the Fan Room.

Holland 1990 - party at 11:00 in the Fan Room on Sunday night, also at 10:00 on Saturday there will be an informal gathering in room 1076. Pre-supporting membership is available for £4 and T-Shirts for £6. The Holland desk is just inside the bookroom and has free 'Candy' (?).

Holland 1990 has 1100 pre-supporting members to date, and of course they would like to remind you all to take part in the vote at Conspiracy '87.

NB those people who went to Leicon (Beneluxcon '85) will be happy to know that there will be WOKKELS.

CONsternation - the 14th Beneluxcon will take place in Scheveningen. The dates are 6th to 8th November 1987. For information, drop a line to: John Paul Smit, Laan van Meerdervoort 160A, 2517 BG The Hague, Holland.

Follyer - party on Saturday night at 11:00 in the Fan Room (with an adjournment for the Fireworks).

Norwescon - we have tried in vain to contact a Norwescon committee member, all to no avail. If anyone can give us any reliable information, we would be happy to print it. The program claims that there is a party in the Fan Room at 11:00 on Friday.

Contrivance - pre-supporting membership is 1 at the desk in the foyer, where bid reports are also available. There is no official party but there will be an informal meeting on Friday night in room 1040. Volunteers to man the desk would be welcomed. Steve Davies claims that there is absolutely no truth in the rumours.

Yorkon IV - we have been reliably informed that this bid has been withdrawn.

Novacon 17 - membership #8 until the end of this convention. See Bernie Evans at the desk.

FANS ACROSS THE WORLD

This scheme is aimed at helping fans who find it difficult to bring money out of their countries, or have similar problems, to attend Conspiracy '87. The Fans Across The World Scheme hopes to arrange transport within Britain (and possibly from continental channel ports), food and/or accommodation at the Convention and maybe hospitality before or afterwards. A group of 18 Poles has already been sponsored by this scheme.

A raffle is being held in aid of Fans Across the World, and prizes will include a signed copy of Keith Roberts' "Grainne", a bottle of Stroh, a copy of "Monday Begins on Saturday" in Russian, an Easter Egg, a Conspiracy T-Shirt, a bottle of lemon vodka and the obligatory cuddly toy.

Tickets are 10 pence each, or 10 for £1 with a badge thrown in. The draw will take place on Sunday afternoon.

For further information concerning Fans Across the World contact Bridget Wilkinson, Steve Linton, James Steel or a ticket seller near you.

GAMES ROOM

Anyone who would like to give a short talk on, and then run, a game please contact Marcus in the Games Room. Details of further items can be found on a notice board in the Games room.

CINEMA

For a complete and up-to-date guide to the Film Program, please consult the noticeboard at the registration desk.

FILK SINGING

Gytha assures us that there will be Filk Singing every night somewhere.

And lastly, from the ubiquitous roving reporter:

It has been noticed that as the size of BECCONS increases, so too does the size of the poultry to be found on the lake, viz. Geese. Could it be possible that BECCON the Worldcon will have ostriches sailing on the lake?

Poacher Bear.

This edition of the Beacon was produced by Rob Meades and Alice Kohler with the aid of many other people and all sorts of modern electronic equipment and a Gestetner machine.

PRESS UPDATE

Following the death defying exposure on Mercia Radio (Friday), tune in to Radio West Midlands at some (currently) undefined time on Saturday. Also with luck, thrill to the picture of Chris Cooper in front of the Art Show display in the Daily Telegraph. (Saturday)

****STOP PRESS***STOP PRESS****

This is being typed to be read because half of the Cinema audience is now somewhat deaf

The Projectionists would like to sincerely apologise for their cock-up with the sound for 'RUNAWAY'... due to the sound plug being connected to the wrong outlet, the sound decibel level climbed dramatically when the error was discovered Sorry, folks - we promise a five-minute warning next time.

The BECCON BEACON

This is the Beccon Beacon for Saturday night, compiled by Steve Bull in the large hours of the evening for distribution in the smaller hours yet to come.

Pogrom Changes

Contrary to rumours there is not a pogrom taking place at this convention and thus no changes to it have been reported. However there are a few changes (additions and explanations) to the advertised programme reported below.

Saturday 18th April

10pm LA in '90 WORLDCON BID PARTY
Room 2071, hosted by Bobbe Armbruster and Mike Glyer.

Sunday 19th April

1pm The Hour of the Wolfe King's Hall
This is Gene Wolfe in conversation with John Clute and Kim Stanley Robinson. The quiz final moves to 11pm tonight.

3.30pm Art Auction King's Hall
This item has been brought forward half an hour because of the large amount of material for sale.

4pm Gaming Competition Games Room
This is the deadline for handing in your entry for the competition.

4pm Self Defence Class for Ladies Arden Room
A 75p cover charge will be made - proceeds to 'Fans Across the World'. No spectators, no martial artists, participants only please (wear loose clothing). See Lisanne Norman for more details.

5pm Self Defence Class for Men Arden Room
As for ladies' class.

6pm The Book Business Queen's Room
This item is cancelled due to the non-appearance of the panellists.

6pm The Amazing Pun Competition Fan Room
There are suitably fantastic prizes (traditional and modern) and the competition will be judged by Bob Shaw (he of the Emerald Isle (complete with Capitals)). However sadists are needed to inflict this peculiar brand of torture on a hopefully unsuspecting audience. Therefore would prospective participants please contact Mike Wigley (beard, glasses, pipe and haversack (what an unusual description - Ed.)) or a committee member.

9pm Artificial Intelligence King's Room
Not going to the Christmas dinner? Then learn the truth about Dr Who and K9 at this item.

FOR ALL PROGRAMME ITEMS SHOWN AT 11PM, READ "AFTER THE AWARDS CEREMONY".

11pm Quiz Final King's Hall
Moves here from this afternoon.

NEWS OF PROGRAMME CHANGES FOR THE REST OF THE CONVENTION WILL APPEAR IN FUTURE EDITIONS OF THE BECCON BEACON.

News From the Organisation

The hotel will now be checking room keys at breakfast in the morning.

The Projectionists Strike Back!

After the scurrilous stop press of yesterday's edition, the projectionists wish to make the following statement:

"There are nine sound amplifiers in the projection booth, all interconnected somehow..... which means we have a choice of 9x9x9

different ways of setting the switches. This is not helped by the hotel staff coming into the booth and switching things off without telling anyone.

"With equipment and help like that, is it any wonder that the projectionists intend to stay drunk for the rest of the con!"

NB - some of us don't need that much excuse - Ed.

Apology (Courtesy of User Friendly Computer Grovel Services)

Rob Meades and Alice Kohler wish to apologise to the Norwescon committee for the derogatory wording of the paragraph on Norwescon in the second edition of the Beccon Beacon. This was absolutely unintentional. During the hours long struggle to get the text out of the wordprocessor and onto sheets of paper, this piece of bad journalism slipped through.

We request that anyone attending the bidding on Sunday disregard the attitude of the aforementioned paragraph and vote for the Conventions on their merits.

The Convention Rodeo

Where else would you find the convention roundup? The following conventions have definitely shown signs of having a presence at Beccon.

Norwescon and Follycon - bids for the next Eastercon. Come to the site selection vote to find out more.

Contrivance - a bid to hold the 1989 Eastercon in Jersey. Pre-supports available from the desk near Registration. Last nights informal meeting was such a success that another will be held tonight in room 1030, after the fireworks.

Conspiracy (26th August to 1st September 1987). The 45th Worldcon to be held in Brighton later this year. If anyone hasn't yet joined, membership is available at the pre-increase price of £30 for the duration of Beccon.

Albacon 87 (19th - 22nd June 1987) at the Central Hotel, Glasgow. Guests of Honour Brian Stableford, Josephine Saxton and Chris Boyce. Attending Membership £10.

Connote8 - UNICON8 (3rd to 5th July 1987) at New Hall, Cambridge.
Guest of Honour Geraldine Harris. Attending Membership £8 from
the desk near to the King's Hall.

X-Con (October 1988) PSIFA's 10th anniversary convention.
Supporting membership £1.50, Attending Membership £6 from PSIFA
c/o HPSU, Hatfield Poly, Hatfield, Herts.

Wincon - a bid for UNICON 9 at King Alfred's College,
Winchester. Pre-supporting memberships of £1 from the people
wearing cuddly bear badges.

Novacon (30th October - 1st November 1987) at the Royal Angus
Hotel, Birmingham. Guest of Honour Iain Banks. Attending
membership #8. Note the con is limited to 350 members.

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Discover how to win at Traveller from Artificial Intelligence
at 9pm on Sunday.

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Small Adze (or Self Defence for Gardeners)

This is not meant to be a reference to the methods used by any
of our advertisers, but you can take it that way if you wish.

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"The strangling terror of a carnivorous horror whose roots
reached into illimitable pasts and fathomless abysses (sic) of the
night that broods beyond time....."

- Mr H.P.L.

(unsolicited testimonial)

Returning from the grave of doom forever the careers of a new
group of aspiring authors (in search of punctuation - Ed.)...the
forum of the new series of SFINX.

"...better than Interzone"

-Brian Aldiss

As bought by Gene Wolfe! CAN YOU AFFORD TO BE SEEN WITHOUT ONE?

(look for OUSFG members, this is their hot potato)

Hear the secrets of IBM's "planning" from Artificial Intelligence at 9pm on Sunday.

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The three stewards who survived last night's Disco would like to contact Dave Langford with a view to joining Hearing Aid Fandom. Box 1005

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Heard in the bar:-

".....but I haven't got a plastic holder for it....."

".....where there's a fool, there's a workshop....."

Stop Press - Fancy Dress Results

Best Effect - Steve Davies for 'Traveller in Black'

Best Costume - Jaine Weddell for 'Jean Grey'

Best Dramatic Presentation - Gary Stratmann & David Angus for 'Tenko Hara'

PROGRAMME CHANGE**PROGRAMME CHANGE**

6pm The cancelled item 'The Book Business' will now be replaced with a Gerry Webb talk, subject as yet unknown

Queen's Room

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The BECCON BEACON

Sunday Evening Edition

From the innards of the third different computer and second different wordprocessor this weekend, here is the final edition of the BEACON.

Winners of the Children's Fancy Dress were:

David Newton: Most Ingenious Use Of Material
Elizabeth Probert: Cutest Nose
Robert Glover: Biggest Smile
Karen Westhead: Most Enchanting Performance
Penny Newton: Prettiest Fairy
Robert Heathcote: Most Dramatic Performance
Tara Glover: Most Spectacular Cloak
Helen Oldroyd: Best Potential Kate Solomon
Amanda Dorey: Neatest Ankles In The Business
Peter Westhead: Best Costume

PROGRAMME CHANGES FOR SUNDAY

11.00 p.m. - Bid Party Fan Room
The announced "Holland in 1990" party has been converted to a joint Bid party by Holland in 1990 and L.A. in 1990.

Midnight - The Rocky Horror Picture Show York Room
There will be a showing of the Rocky Horror Picture Show but please note NO RICE, WATER etc.

PROGRAMME CHANGES FOR MONDAY

10.30 p.m. - Early Early Show Fan Room
This item has been moved from the King's Hall.

11.00 a.m. - Conrunning: Hotel liaison Workshop Durham Room
Katie Hoare will be running this workshop in the Durham Room instead of the Arden.

11.30 a.m. - Fanzine Panel Fan Room
Another apology to Maureen Porter, but this panel is being chaired by Bridget Wilkinson. The panel includes Greg Pickersgill, Mike Abbott and Alex Stewart.

12.00 noon - Hotels in Space Queens Hall
Professor Patrick Collins highlights a factor missing from current calculations of space travel economics. At least one company is already planning commercial tourist flights into space, and is accepting bookings. Should we be taking out pre-supporting membership for the first zero-gravity convention, Eastercon 2001 in the Orbital Hilton?

Midnight The Cinema will be closed from midnight - sorry.

FOLLYCON

For those who have spent Sunday in a vacuum, Follycon is now the Eastercon for 1988, and will be held in the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool. Our confirmed guests can now be announced, and are as follows:

American GOH: Gordon Dickson

British GOH: Gwyneth Jones

Fan GOH: Greg Pickersgill

Comics GOH: Len Wein

Further guests will be announced later. Membership rates are #12 attending and #6 supporting and will be available from the Follycon desk. There is a #1 rebate on membership for pre-supporters of both Follycon and Norwescon. PR 1 will be going to all members of BECCON and will be out in May.

CONTRIVANCE

Again, for those who don't already know, Contrivance is the Eastercon for 1989 and will be held in Jersey in the Hotel de France in Jersey. The Guests announced so far are:

M John Harrison

Anne McCaffrey

More information can be obtained from the Contrivance desk outside the Kings Hall.

FANS ACROSS THE WORLD

Norwescon has very kindly offered to donate all surplus funds from their pre-supporting memberships to Fans Across The World. The fund would like to thank the Norwescon committee and their pre-supporters for their generosity. New prizes since the last announcement include: free, pre-support for Holland in 1990 (plus sweets),

"A Different Light" by Elizabeth Lynn,

"Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" donated by Eryx Games,

"The Leaky Establishment", donated by Andromeda,

"Dragons Egg" (ceramic sculpture) donated by Heather North.

"2010: Odyssey 2" signed first edition donated by Fred Clarke

The FANTASTIC Conspiracy T-shirt.

LAST WORDS FROM BECCON

Thank you all for coming. We hope you all enjoyed yourselves. We think we broke even on Saturday, but can't be sure until all the accounts come in. We'll let you know in due course.

We would like once again to thank everyone who made BECCON possible, but, because this is the *BECCON BEACON*, particularly Chris Suslowicz, Barbara Edwards, Rob Meades, Alice Kohler, Steve Bull, Dermot Dobson and Richard Edwards for the labour, equipment and expertise that made the *BEACONS* possible. Thanks.

The BECCON BEACON



LATE FINAL
ISSUE!!!



Hello, Good Evening, and Welcome to this final issue of the BECCON BEACON. Subscribe now folks!

This is being ground out ready for the dead dog (or rat) parties imminent. Final news and requests: For those people who picked up a copy of the Quiz answers, please note that one of them is incorrect (correction overleaf); please accept our apologies for any inconvenience caused by this (i.e. lack of prizes). General thanks to all concerned for making it a very successful convention. Major thanks to all the Technical Crew and Gophers, and private thanks to everybody who helped with the BEACON. (Corporal PUNishment to those who took part in that competition will be meted out in a later edition, watch this space: " ". (Didn't move, did it?))

There is a list of Lost/Found property in the operations room; this includes "One Brain, small", but we are sure that more than one has gone missing. A list of available lifts home is also on display in Ops.

**** COOKERY SPOT ****

In tradition with the BECCON committee's culinary expertise, we offer the following recipe, (from Bernie), entitled "how to stuff a green pepper": Take one Green Pepper, sharpen stalk, take a Hotel Banqueting Manager.....

(Continued on page 94)